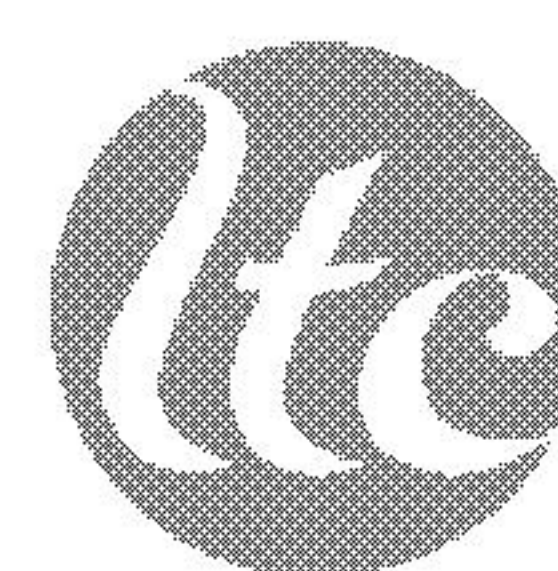


6<sup>th</sup> March 2026



LICENSED  
TRADE  
CHARITY

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**FAO: Mid Sussex County Council Planning Officers & Members of the Planning Committee**

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing in my capacity as the Executive Director of Education & Operations for the Licensed Trade Charity, which oversees a group of schools, including a specialist provision for pupils with autism and associated needs, based at Sayers Common.

I welcome the opportunity to provide an educational context and support for the proposed development currently under your consideration. The existing school buildings within our estate are no longer fit for purpose. Despite ongoing and costly maintenance, they do not deliver a modern, inclusive and therapeutic learning environment, particularly for students with complex special educational needs. Constraints in layout, accessibility and infrastructure significantly limit our ability to provide appropriate support, specialist spaces and safe circulation for students and staff.

The proposal to develop a new purpose-built school represents a critical opportunity to address these challenges. The new facility will be designed specifically to meet the needs of autistic learners, incorporating evidence based design principles that support sensory regulation, emotional wellbeing, independence and educational attainment. This will result in a significantly improved learning environment and better long term outcomes for this highly vulnerable group of children and young people. The funding of this project is intrinsically linked to the proposed residential development on the surrounding land. The sale of this land is essential to enable the delivery of the new school. Importantly, this approach allows the organisation to reinvest directly into high quality educational infrastructure, whilst also contributing to local housing supply. From an educational and community perspective, the benefits of this proposal are substantial.

The development will:

1. Secure the long term viability of our specialist education provision within the area of Sayers Common;
2. Improve the capacity and quality of support for pupils with autism and related needs;
3. Align with local and national priorities to improve SEND provision and outcomes;
4. Deliver wider social value through improved facilities and efficient use of the land.

We have been working closely with the local planning authority to ensure the residential element is thoughtfully integrated into the surrounding area. As a team, we remain committed to constructive engagement with the authority and other stakeholders to address any matters relating to design, access, safeguarding and community impact.

In conclusion, I strongly support the proposed development and respectfully urge the local planning authority to give significant weight to the clear and compelling educational need that underpins it. Approval of this application will enable the creation of a fit for purpose specialist school, providing top quality teaching areas and the appropriate environment, thereby ensuring that our current and future pupils receive the education and support that they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours faithfully,

